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November 2024

Please bring light into the lives of
mothers like Francine this Christmas



"I learned how to manage household activities and to save money for a business in order to get profits and carry out the family projects."
Francine

Dear <Salutation>

You don't know me, but I know one thing about you, and I want to say 'thank you' for what you have done.

My name is Francine Nsabimana and I live with my husband Jerome and our six children in a village called Bibuye in the country of Burundi.

I am saddened to say that I used to have no peace in my heart or in my family.

I was really miserable, with no money for food or clothes and I didn't live in perfect harmony with my husband, because we didn't have the words to speak to each other. **We lived in a straw house with a roof that let the rainwater in. I was always afraid that it would fall onto my children one day.**

I didn't have clean clothes or soap to wash myself so I didn't want to go to church and I was afraid to approach others to find out how I could improve my life, as I knew no better.

One day I heard about this programme from my neighbours who told me that there is a literacy and numeracy circle opened by Mothers' Union in my parish. So I joined even though I felt ashamed of how I looked. I hoped that this programme would improve my living situation.

That is the thing I know about you <Salutation>, that you have supported Mothers' Union and so I have you to thank for making my life better. God bless you.

The thing I learned ...

continued overleaf...

How your kind gift will help

A gift of <xx> becomes <xx> and could buy the seeds and fertilizer to help people start a farming business in communities like Bibuye.

A gift of <xx> becomes <xx> and could help cover the running costs of a literacy programme for a month for mothers like Francine.

A gift of <xx> becomes <xx> and could help cover the costs of setting up a small farmers' co-operative so subsistence farmers can grow a future.



DOUBLE your donation this Christmas!

Give online at www.mothersunion.org/christmas24 between 3rd December and 10th December, to have your gift amount matched in the Big Give. See overleaf for details...

YES Francine! I will bring light into the lives of mothers like you this Christmas

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Remember! If you can give online, your donation is doubled, turn over and follow the three simple steps. mothersunion.org/christmas24

Here is my Christmas gift of £ to help more mothers like Francine

I enclose a cheque/PO/CAF voucher made payable to Mothers' Union

OR please charge to my: CAF Charity Card Mastercard Visa

Card No:

Expiry date: Security code:

Signature:

Please return this form or any cheque donations to:
**Mothers' Union, Mary Sumner House,
24 Tuffon Street, London, SW1P 3RB**



Donations made to this appeal will be used to support our work in Burundi. Should this appeal generate more income than the cost of this project then any surplus funds will be used where the need is greatest.

Tick this box to make every £1 of your gift worth 25p more for FREE

Yes, I want to Gift Aid any donations made to Mothers' Union now, in the future and in the past four years until I notify you otherwise. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference. *giftaid it*

Staying in touch

Gaming - If you tick this you WILL NOT receive any raffles, lotteries or free prize draws.

Campaigns and Resources - Tick to NOT receive mail that contains membership resources, campaign materials, or appeals. This includes Connected and the Prayer Diary.

Non-essential - Tick this box to opt out of all mail apart from essential (membership renewal). Ticking this box automatically opts you out of the other 2 options.



from our literacy and numeracy programme, “Terintambwe” is how to manage household activities and to save money for a farming business in order to get profits and carry out the family projects.

I also learned from the programme how to strengthen my relationship with God. I pray deeply and also I am able to pray for me, my children and others.

One thing I put into practice is that now I can be hygienic. I am able to wash clothes and be happy to meet others at church.

Another big change is that I can communicate well with my husband and my children. It is not like before when I isolated myself and didn't work with my husband. **Now, the communication with my husband has been improved and I'm so happy.**

I can manage the soy harvest we produce and save it for the family. We took the decision together of buying tiles for our house which before was covered in straw. We now live in a beautiful house and can get food without any problem. My children are very happy.

“I used to be very very poor as my husband was very poor. I was able to get a loan and a goat. Now I can buy my own clothes and dishes. I learned I could buy land by myself by working with these women.”

Sabine

Again, thank you and God bless you for your kindness.

I started seeing changes to my life in three months. The biggest change to my life experience is that I was able to buy a goat. I bought it as a kid but now it has grown, multiplied and produced three other goats.

This programme has made me very glad. I feel a great joy because you have helped me make a remarkable change to my life and also my husband Jerome and our children.

It will soon be that time of year when we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. I would like to ask you something. **Would you make a Christmas gift today to help other parishes start their own literacy and numeracy circles?**

I see many people in our village who were like I once was. I encourage them to join as soon as possible after hearing about it because it will remove them from ignorance and open their minds.

Once again, thank you for supporting Mothers' Union. **Your support of this programme has brought light into my life and I would love you to support it with a gift this Christmas, to bring light into the lives of others like me in Burundi.**

Thank you and may God bless you this Christmas.

NSABIMANA FRANCINE

Francine Nsabimana

PS: You can see a video of my testimony online that the kind people at Mother's Union have translated for me. I also hope you like the Christmas card that is sent to you with my letter.



“We cannot reach development if we are illiterate. I saw it myself, I was able to see my aunt who was part of the programme, and I can see that she can handle her children because she has literacy and save and calculate due to her numeracy as well.” Francois

Step by step to a brighter future

In Burundi, Mothers' Union One More Step programme, named “Terintambwe” by participants, has brought literacy and numeracy to over 10,000 women and men like Francine and Jerome in the last 2 - 3 years.

Thanks to the success of the three pilots, we're now expanding and rolling out the extra step – showing how those most marginalised in society can use their new skills to create their own small agriculture businesses, stabilising family and community life. Your Christmas gift can help more families like Francine's build better futures

Our literacy circles and savings groups are open to everyone, regardless of religion, age, gender or tribe, enabling and strengthening community unity.

Your gift DOUBLED by the Big Give!

Between 12 noon 3 December - 12 noon 10 December, the Big Give will double all individual donations made ONLINE. Just type www.mothersunion.org/christmas24 into your search bar to double your gift*



Mothers' Union is taking part in the **Big Give** this Christmas, which means you can double your gift and help even more women like Francine.

If you can give online at www.mothersunion.org/christmas24 between 3rd-10th December, your gift will be doubled.

Follow these simple steps to donate online and double your donation:

- 1 PUT A REMINDER** in your calendar/diary for 3rd December. If it is easier, you can place the enclosed Christmas card or this form as a reminder on your fridge with a magnet!
- 2 DONATE:** Visit www.mothersunion.org/christmas24 (remember you will need your email address to donate)
- 3 SPREAD THE WORD:** encourage your family and friends to do the same!

How do I give online if I have no email address?

If you would like your donation to be doubled this Christmas but do not know how to donate online, why not get a family member, or someone you trust to help you.

If you are unable to give online by 10th December, just complete the form overleaf and return to us in the envelope provided. Every gift counts to help bring literacy, numeracy and brighter futures for women like Francine.



*All individual donations made online during 3-10 December will be matched by the Big Give, the Province of Ireland, other B&I Diocese and external funders up to a total combined value of £42,000.

To DOUBLE your donation, make your gift ONLINE between 3rd - 10th December at www.mothersunion.org/christmas24